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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/646,748  
FIRST NAMED APPLICANT  
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 112701-036

ROBERT M. BARRETT  
P O BOX 1135  
CHICAGO IL 60690-1135

5611

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/EP99/01274

LA. FILING DATE 02/22/99  
PRIORITY DATE 03/31/98

DATE MAILED: 02/23/01

**NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371  
AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495**

1. The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as ☐ a Designated Office (37 CFR 1.494), ☒ an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is **ACCEPTED** for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

2. The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

11 Dec 2000  
35 U.S.C. 102(e) DATE

11 Dec 2000  
DATE OF RECEIPT OF  
35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE "FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371(C) REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

3. ☒ A request for immediate examination under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) was received on 24 Sept 2000 and the application will be examined in turn.

4. The following items have been received:

☒ U.S. Basic National Fee.

☒ Copy of the international application in:

☐ a non-English language.

☒ English.

☐ Translation of the international application into English.

☒ Oath or Declaration of inventor(s) for DO/EO/US.

☐ Copy of Article 19 amendments. ☐ Translation of Article 19 amendments into English.  
The Article 19 amendments ☐ have ☐ have not been entered.

☒ The International Preliminary Examination Report in English and its Annexes, if any.

☐ Copy of the Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).

☐ Translation of Annexes to the IPER into English.

The Annexes ☐ have ☐ have not been entered.

☐ Preliminary amendment(s) filed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) filed 11 Jan 01 and \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Assignment document.

☐ Power of Attorney and/or Change of Address.

☐ Substitute specification filed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.

☐ Priority Document.

☒ Copy of the International Search Report ☒ and copies of the references cited therein.

☐ Other.

**RECEIVED**  
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DOCKET

FEB 26 2001

ATTY: RMB

DOCKET #: 112701-036

Applicant is reminded that any communication to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above. (37 CFR 1.5)